

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY



(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 24 JUN 2005

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Applicant's or agent's file reference P185		FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/B2004/002309		International filing date (day/month/year) 16.07.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 16.07.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A45C13/24, G08B13/00, A44B19/00				
Applicant MICHIDA, Taizo				
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau a total of 5 sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>				
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the opinion</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>				
Date of submission of the demand 13.05.2005		Date of completion of this report 23.06.2005		
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465		Authorized Officer Lang, D Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2092 		

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/IB2004/002309

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

Description, Pages

1-83 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-18 received on 23.05.2005 with letter of 13.05.2005

Drawings, Sheets

1/43-43/43 as originally filed

- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages
 - ☐ the claims, Nos.
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	2,3,9,10-15
	No: Claims	1,4-8,16-18
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1,4-8,16-18
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-18
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

ITEM V:

Concerning independent claim 1:

All the features of claim 1 are known from GB-A-2284698 (see the passages cited in the search report), 11 and 10 being the first elements, 1 being the second element comprising the alert indication. GB-A-2284698 concerns an alarm system and the applicant argues that this is different from an alert system. In the examiner's point of view, these two words can not justify a clear difference in technical features. In the apparatus of GB-A-2284698, the alert indication can be suppressed whenever the first and second elements are adjacent one another by a switch. In the application no other means are disclosed in claim 1.

All the features of claim 1 are also known from US-A-4755802.

The subject matter of claim 1 is not new.

Concerning independent claims 17 and 18:

For the same reasons, all the features of claims 17 and 18 are also known from the documents cited above.

The subject matter of claims 17 and 18 is not new.

Concerning the dependent claims:

The subject-matter of the claims for which documents are cited as X in the search report is not new.

Concerning claims 2 and 3, the subject-matter is not considered as involving an inventive step, the features being normal features of acoustic signals devices.

For claim 4, the mechanical action can simply be the contact in the zipper discloses in US-A-4755802.

Concerning claim 9 it is assumed that it can not be considered as involving an inventive step to produce alert indication on two elements instead of only one.

The way the two elements are connected (magnet, other fastener) can also not be considered as involving an inventive step.

ITEM VIII:

The claims are not clear because they are directed to an alert apparatus but reference is

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(SEPARATE SHEET)**

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made to other elements which are not part of this alert apparatus like:
-incorporated into an equipment.

CLAIMS

1. Alert apparatus for providing an alert indication directed to a user thereof; the apparatus being incorporated into or being for attachment to fastener equipment for
5 securing an item, wherein said apparatus comprises-

first and second elements, which are moveable together and apart, the item being in a secure position when the first and second elements are together;

wherein at least one of the elements is arranged to
10 provide an alert indication directed to the user, said alert indication being suppressed whenever the first and second elements are at or adjacent one another.

2. Alert apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least
15 one of said elements includes a bell having a clapper or ball for providing said alert indication.

3. Alert apparatus according to claim 2, wherein movement of said clapper or ball is suppressed whenever the first and
20 second elements are at or adjacent one another.

4. Alert apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the fastener equipment is for securing an aperture in an item closed, and said first and second elements are moveable
25 together for closing the aperture and moveable apart for opening the aperture.

5. Alert apparatus according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the fastener equipment is for securing first and second members together, and said first and second elements are moveable together for attaching said first and second members and 5 moveable apart for detaching said first and second members.

6. Alert apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein at least one of said elements has magnetic means for suppressing said alert indication by means of magnetic force.

10

7. Alert apparatus according to any one of claims 1-5, wherein at least one of said elements has mechanical means for suppressing said alert indication by means of mechanical action.

15

8. Alert apparatus according to any one of claims 1, and 4-7, wherein one of said elements includes an electronic device operable to emit light, sound, vibration or any combination thereof for providing said alert indication.

20

9. Alert apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein both said elements are arranged to provide an alert indication.

25 10. Alert apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein said elements can be connected together by means of a

magnetic force.

11. Alert apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein said elements can be connected together by means of a 5 surface fastener or a buckle.

12. Alert apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein at least one of said elements is connectable to a slider of a slide fastener that is incorporated in a wearable or 10 portable item.

13. Alert apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said first element is connectable to a first slider, and said second element is connectable to a second slider.

15

14. Alert apparatus according to any one of claims 1-12, wherein said first element is connectable to a slider of a slide fastener that is incorporated in a wearable or portable item, and said second element can be disposed on said 20 wearable or portable item in a fixed position relative to said item.

25

15. Alert apparatus according to claim 12, 13 or 14, wherein said slide fastener is a zip fastener.

16. Alert apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein

said item is a portable item or a wearable item.

17. Alert apparatus for providing an alert indication directed to a user thereof; the apparatus being incorporated
5 into or being for attachment to fastener equipment for closing an aperture in an item, wherein said apparatus comprises-

first and second elements, which are moveable together for closing said aperture and apart for opening said
10 aperture;

wherein at least one of the elements is arranged to provide an alert indication directed to the user, said alert indication being suppressed whenever the first and second elements are at or adjacent one another.

15

18. Alert apparatus for providing an alert indication directed to a user thereof for incorporation into or attachment to fastener equipment for securing an item, wherein said apparatus comprises-

20 first and second elements, which are moveable together and apart, the item being in a secure position when the first and second elements are together when incorporated in or attached to the fastener equipment;

wherein at least one of the elements is arranged to
25 provide an alert indication directed to the user, said alert indication being suppressed whenever the first and second

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elements are at or adjacent one another.